

1859

1880

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO.

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF
INAUGURAL ADDRESS
CALIFORNIA

1881

HON. W. G. RITCH, PRESIDENT,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE SOCIETY, FEBRUARY 21, 1881,
AT THE PALACE, SANTA FE, N. M.

WITH THE

Charter, Constitution, and
By-Laws.

SANTA FE,
NEW MEXICAN BOOK AND JOB PRINTING DEPARTMENT,
1881.

The Bancroft Library

University of California • Berkeley

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF

HON. W. G. RITCH, PRESIDENT,

Delivered before the Society, Feb. 21, 1881,
at "The Palace,"

SANTA FE, - NEW MEXICO.
LIBRARY
MUSEUM
GALLERIES
CALIFORNIA
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS.

ORGANIZED DEC. 26, 1859.

RE-ESTABLISHED DEC. 27, 1880.

SANTA FE
NEW MEXICAN BOOK AND JOB PRINTING DEPARTMENT.
1881.

F791
NA
no 1-3

Historical Society of New Mexico.

(RE-ORGANIZED.)

OFFICERS.

HON. WM. G. RITCH,	-	-	-	-	-	PRESIDENT.
HON. L. BRADFORD PRINCE,	-	-	-	-	-	VICE PRESIDENT.
DAVID J. MILLER,	-	-	-	-	-	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
WM. M. BERGER,	-	-	-	-	-	RECORDING SECRETARY.
LEHMAN SPIEGELBERG,	-	-	-	-	-	TREASURER.
J. A. PIERCE,	-	-	-	-	-	CURATOR.

OFFICERS, ORGANIZATION 1859.

COL. JOHN B. GRAYSON,	-	-	-	-	-	PRESIDENT
WILLIAM A. STREET,	-	-	-	-	-	VICE PRESIDENT.
WM. J. SLOAN,	-	-	-	-	-	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
D. V. WHITING,	-	-	-	-	-	REC. SECRETARY & TREASURER.
WINSLOW J. HOWARD,	-	-	-	-	-	CURATOR & LIBRARIAN.

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF

HON. W. G. RITCH, President,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE SOCIETY AT "THE PALACE,"
FEBRUARY 21, 1881.

MEMBERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

In compliance with a request from you, my colleagues, of the Historical Society of New Mexico, I appear before you this evening to talk with you in the interest of the society, and to make such suggestions, appropriate to the occasion, as I have been able to prepare amid pressing official duties.

FIRST ORGANIZATION.

On the last Monday in December, 1859, a number of gentlemen resident in New Mexico formed an association called The Historical Society of New Mexico. This much we learn from the book of correspondence of that society, over the signature of Wm. J. Sloan, the first corresponding secretary. We learn further from the same source, that the society was formally organized by the adoption of a constitution, and the election of officers, and an address delivered by the Hon. Kirby Benedict, then chief justice of the Territory. Other addresses were subsequently delivered before the society by the Rev. Samuel Gorman, Governor Wm. Gilpin of Colorado, and Colonel John B. Grayson, the first president of the society. The society then occupied rooms where the convent of the Sisters of Charity is now located, and where it remained until overtaken by the relentless distractions and wreck of the war of the rebellion. The interest taken in the society by the people of New Mexico, was attested during

593075

the few years of its existence, in a large and well arranged collection of curiosities, specimens and documents, and a considerable number of books, pamphlets and written contributions. The officers and members of the society, necessarily absorbed in the imperative duties of the troublous times, and, there being no responsible guardian to care for these valuable collections, they soon became scattered, and the remnants were finally sold to liquidate the indebtedness. Thus was closed out a fine collection gathered during three years of commendable success. It is well to remark here for the information of members and others interested, that many of the contributions formerly made to the society are still in existence. A few have already been discovered to the reorganized society; others undoubtedly will be. This work of recovery can be greatly facilitated by a little well-directed effort among the members generally.

THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT.

On the 21st anniversary of the organization of the society, effected as stated, and pursuant to a published call signed by David J. Miller and Louis Felsenthal, members of the old society, and by others, for the purpose, there assembled at the office of the secretary of the Territory another "number of gentlemen," for the purpose of re-organizing or re-establishing the Historical Society of New Mexico. With the result of that meeting you are all more or less familiar. Under slight modifications of the constitution of the old society, and on the anniversary before stated, to-wit: the last Monday in December, 1880, was established the society here assembled this evening.

ANNIVERSARY ASSOCIATIONS.

As if to give the society additional character by anniversary association, it is worthy of note that the year 1880 dates the ^{cent}ennial of the first explorations of Espejo in Astzlan, as the country to the north of Mexico was then known.

1880 likewise dates the second centennial of the opening of the fourteen years struggle at Santa Fe, by the Pueblo or Village Indians for disenthralment from their imperious task masters, and the final establishment of their freedom from serfdom in the mines.

In addition to these comes the most important of all associations, when considered in the light of results certain to follow. I, of course, refer to the opening of railway communication with Santa Fe and with the Territory generally. From the year 1880 dates the advent of the railroad into the valley of the Rio Grande—from thence communicating through the cardinal points with the world. Manifestly, it is an event to be fraught with the grandest results ever yet known to this most ancient and historical land.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

Already the effect is eminently apparent in the character of the people who have become interested in New Mexico; and in no sense

more notably so, than in commanding a special visit from ex-president Grant and family in June last; and also a visit from President Hayes, with his family and party, in October following. The choice of time would thus seem to augur well. It was quite opportune as establishing an organization having for not the least of its objects, the recovery and preservation of the very historical facts, with which it is so happily associated.

In the organic law of the society, the second Monday of January last was fixed as the date for the annual election of officers, and they were accordingly elected.

THANKS.

It was your pleasure to honor me with an election to the chief office of your society. I improve this opportunity to express to you my high appreciation of the honor—as an honor worthy of the ambition of any one, especially if he feels an interest in the history of the Southwest. I thank you for this expression of your unsolicited suffrages. As the best return I can express, I pledge you an honest purpose in the execution of the duties involved; always remembering that, in united effort and hearty co-operation, alike among members, committees and officers, lies essential success.

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY.

The object of the society, quoting from the constitution, was, and is : —

“The collection and preservation under its own care and direction of all historical facts, manuscripts, documents, records and memoirs relating to the history of the Territory; Indian antiquities and curiosities; geological and mineralogical specimens; geographical maps and information and objects of natural history.” The purpose is not to write history under the sanction of the society, but to collect the material for the future historian and antiquarian.

The basis of operations thus defined is simple and broad, and I believe will admit every legitimate and desirable subject. Upon the importance of an historical society as a medium of discovery and preservation, all in the main will agree.

CHARACTER OF THE WORK.

It now becomes us to consider in some degree the character of the work and plans of operation.

We do not assume to originate any new system; nor is success thus dependent. Historical societies in the world of science, are among the oldest. We have only to consult freely, and be guided by, the light of the past—adopting that finally which shall best prove itself adapted to our necessities, and our future will be assured.

The mighty change that has been wrought in this ancient and once isolated frontier during the past few months, has brought to the front new and varied duties and responsibilities. A thousand miles of rail-

way planted upon our soil during a brief period, with other thousands centering thereon, are awaking the latent possibilities of our rich valleys and pastoral ranges and richer mountains and placers of wealth. The transformation is in some respects magical.

With the scope now opened to the indomitable energy of the individual American, the silence and repose which for ages has reigned unbroken in so many places over the remains of ancient population will be lifted. Antiquarians and curiosity hunters are already with us in considerable force, and collecting and carrying away in wagon loads that which legitimately belongs to the local historical society. Other antiquarians and curiosity hunters are coming in still larger force. Soon, very much will be irretrievably lost to New Mexico. This foraging, so to speak, must be looked after and the rights and responsibilities of our home institutions examined into and asserted. With new people coming and to come, new settlements, new mineral developments, and the building of new cities and towns, and with the inseparable new life and fresh vigor, will inevitably come their obliterating effects upon the monuments in archaeology and ethnology. Collections in antiquity, and researches, too, of right, should receive attention at once. The opportunity is valuable in proportion as made available in advance of the future. Our abiding hope should be, as our manifest duty is, to snatch from oblivion the wonderful evidences of the prehistoric people of the Southwest.

DUTY OF THE PEOPLE.

This hope and this duty belongs to the people of the whole Territory. The pride and interest to collect and contribute and sustain belongs to every section of the Territory alike. Every citizen should feel an individual responsibility and become interested in accordance with his opportunities and means. In this manner the society will not only maintain an existence, but will become healthy, robust and prosperous; and an institution in which every citizen might and would feel a just pride and personal interest.

Smithson, the founder of that grand institution for research and diffusion of scientific knowledge, which bears his name, left the following sentiment: "The man of science has no country; the world is his country and all men are his countrymen." The late Professor Henry, the able secretary of the Smithsonian Institute in its early history, embodied the sentiment among the rules of action for its board of regents. That this institution, located at the capital of the nation and the center of scientific intelligence has proved a wonderful success, is known and recognized by every intelligent citizen of the republic. So let it be with the founding of the Historical Society of New Mexico. The Southwest is its world, its field of operation, and all men in *this*, its world, should and we believe will become its friend and patron. This, they will the more readily be as they come more and

more to realize that no other, in the whole range of institutions, forms so important a relation to local education, whether it be society, commerce or polities. Through it, the resources, apparent and latent, geography, as well as ancient and natural history, and antiquities in art, are all made familiar, and available alike to the practical and æsthetical. No less in importance is the patriotic effect coming from thorough familiarity with one's country. Begetting love of country and home through familiarity with its history, in turn brings love of liberty for the sake of home and country.

A CRITICAL EXAMINATION INTO THE PAST.

not only brings clearly to the mind the best methods in human experience, familiarizes man with such experiences as are worthy of being adopted and perpetuated among a free people, but likewise, with equal clearness, brings to the mind in all their ugliness and deformity the quicksands and hidden rocks in the sea of life—those methods in political systems, inconsistent with liberty and happiness—those which we, as rational intelligent beings, are bound to observe, correct and avoid. The old maxim, "history is philosophy teaching by experience," states the case comprehensively.

We, the people of New Mexico and the Southwest, must look to these most important matters. No other people look after it for us, nor as we can. Let us, therefore, at once adapt ourselves to the times and plant with aggressive perseverance this particular institution of an enlightened people and of the republic; a people and republic with whom every person present this evening, in common with every good citizen of the Southwest, is proud to be numbered.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

A few general remarks with reference to historical societies in the United States, will, we trust, be of interest. The parent society established in America was, "The American Philosophical Society," organized at Philadelphia in 1743, with Benjamin Franklin as its first president. This institution is still in existence, and many present this evening, who attended the Centennial in 1876, probably devoted a half day to its venerable collection, so full of interest, and of which the people of Philadelphia are justly very proud.

The number of historical societies organized since the establishment of the United States government is over 160. The first of these was "The Massachusetts Historical Society," organized in 1791. Nearly all of these societies have perpetuated their organization to the present time, and thereby afford a remarkable illustration of tenacity for life and stability of purpose—in societies supported as these generally are, by private contributions. These societies were very generally started at an early period in the history of their particular localities. They generally originated with the people, and were established by and for the people; hence they are broad, far-reaching and universal,

not confined to class interests. They have likewise a special importance above the societies of the world in general, by reason of the character of the free institutions of our country. The history of our land and nation is thus being preserved with a degree of completeness unknown to any other people, the world over.

In some of the Western States the historical society was among the institutions first to be considered. The society in Minnesota was established by act of the first Territorial Legislature. Such organizations thus early are a testimonial to the eminence in civilization to which these communities had attained from their first political existence. It is among these frontier states that societies are furnished with free apartments, and fostered and cared for by free grants of money from public funds. Thus, the state of Wisconsin contributes annually to its historical society about \$7,000, expended in purchasing historical works of special merit and in the payment of salaries and expenses. As a consequence, although comparatively young, the Historical Society of Wisconsin to-day ranks among the first societies in the United States.

From published statistics of these societies, down to 1876, we are enabled to give the following aggregates: Number of members, 27,244; volumes in libraries, 482,041; pamphlets, including newspaper files, 568,801; manuscripts, 88,777, and the volumes of manuscripts 1,361; number of printed pages issued by them, principally during the past seventy-five years, is equal to more than 300 volumes of 350 pages each. The collection of antiquarian specimens and curiosities are almost beyond computation. Incomes are derived chiefly from dues of membership, and range from \$15,000 annually, the amount of the income of the Society of California Pioneers, and of the Massachusetts Society respectively, down to nominal sums in a few instances. The value of the lands, edifices and permanent funds of the several societies amount in round numbers to \$2,000,000.

These statistics are certainly very substantial proof of the industry, patient devotedness and effectiveness of the work. With this showing before us and with our vast country only partially developed still before us, one may fairly become lost in speculation and wonder, when estimating the importance and value of the historical society of the future.

SEAT OF THE SOCIETY.

Corporally, the Historical Society of New Mexico, is located at Santa Fe; incidentally, because of its being the capital of the Territory; but really—and with manifest propriety—because of its being the center of all political, military, ecclesiastic and commercial history, in its field, during the past three centuries. Santa Fe and vicinity, if traditions are to count, likewise has a standing in pre-historic times. We are all agreed, I think, that it may very justly be recorded as at once

the most ancient and voluminous specimen—we were going to say most ancient fossil—of all the specimens that necessarily will command the attention of the society.

THE ADOBE PALACE—CONGRESS.

A most important item thus included, is the old “Adobe Palace;” the home of the longest line of executives known to the United States, where, during all this time, laws have been enacted and Indian treaties negotiated, and in this long past, from whence imperious edicts have been promulgated and sent forth scattering death and terror all about the land. We have thus mentioned this ancient edifice for the purpose of calling attention to the fact that the Old Palace, unabridged, should be made the permanent seat of the society. The old building *should* be preserved, and thus, *could* be preserved. How better preserve it than by dedicating it to this purpose. To this end, we are in duty bound to recommend, as among the first duties of the people of New Mexico, and of the country, to memorialize Congress. If need be, ask for the society a charter from Congress, and make it affirmatively national in character by national authority. The scope of object might thus be enlarged, a more extended repute, a wider range of patrons and broader field of usefulness could and would thus be assured. A gentleman, to whom we made the suggestion the other day exclaimed: “Why, I had no idea of the society taking in so wide a scope!” Can any person give a good reason why we should not consider it in this light? and with hopes for success?

Congress, within the past few years, has engaged in the establishment and encouragement of national Parks and Museums, at the Yosemite and the Yellowstone, with considerable annual expenditures; and why not engage in a National Museum, or in other words a National Historical Society in the Southwest; where there is an historical field of magnitude, having an historical edifice the sole property of the United States situate in the most ancient historical center of the nation. The precedent, as we have noted, is clear in authorizing. The subject is abundantly worthy of the serious consideration of the distinguished authority in control. Give to the society the permanent control of the Palace property, and the rents that would be derived from surplus room, would at once place the society upon a self supporting basis. This proposition has an advantage over the two named in economy of expenditure; surely, Congress could not well afford neglecting to make permanent so commendable an institution. It seems to me worthy of an effort. We'll not obtain it unless the people try for it. Therefore, we say, let's try.

A TOURIST'S SHRINE.

Historically, the old town of Santa Fe, and the Adobe Palace, each belong to the country. They will constitute a shrine, at which the future tourist will tarry, and with an eye to business, we may remark.

will thus become one of the special inducements to bring pleasure-seekers crossing the continent by way of New Mexico. Emphasize this fact by making the Old Palace the seat of a National Historical Society.

Application has already been made for society rooms on the Palace property. We hope for a favorable response. In any event, whether the Washington powers are disposed to favor the society or not, there can be no doubt of the just propriety and just duty of the whole people interesting themselves in, contributing to, and helping to sustain the Historical Society in the work you have declared for in your fundamental law.

Good rooms secured permanently, and the guarantee which will thus be offered for the safety and care of manuscripts and historical relics will no doubt be appreciated, and the owners and holders thereof will be glad to deposit in the archives their historical treasures and thus save them from destruction. How many valuable documents the world over, have already perished by reason of the absence of an Historical Society. On the other hand think of the number saved by their existence. No place on this broad continent stands more in need of the fostering care of an Historical Society than this Territory. Send in your names for membership promptly, every body, north, south, east and west accompanied by the trifling charge for admission.

CORRESPONDENTS FOR EVERY LOCALITY.

When the membership shall have been obtained, there will be one or more suitable persons appointed in every material locality as corresponding members, whose special duty it will become to gather and receive specimens in nature and art, documents and traditions, old pamphlets and newspaper files; and according as his time and inclination shall prompt, to make written contributions with special reference to his neighborhood, people and locality. Family, genealogical and precinct histories can be included with the best of results. Too much, however, must not be expected from the correspondent. Every member in his locality should show his sympathy and support in good words and material acts. Each member thus has the power to aid and contribute to success.

THE NEWSPAPER

is a most valuable medium through which to arouse interest and incite support, to make known the character and value of the institution, and to diffuse knowledge brought out in approved contributions and lectures. These good offices, we have no doubt, will be brought into play, both through solicitations and diffusion, and will be made valuable proportionately to the interest asserted by the people and the demand for knowledge. The newspaper is a follower of public opinion as well as a leader. The greatest number of copies sold is the business view. Domestic necessity and current expenses are with

LIBRARY

them the same reality as in other walks of life. However, we are free to believe, and do believe, that the press of the Territory will be in advance of the people on this question. We entertain no doubt, that the good will of every editor of every material newspaper will be exemplified toward the society in honorable efforts to cultivate not only a love for local history and a pride in the objects and purposes of the society, but likewise in the inciting of a healthy interest among the people in making collections and contributions; not forgetting to remind the collector and contributor to accompany the same with the locality, settings and surroundings, in short, the history of the article so contributed, and in the careful packing and safe transit to the society. Each newspaper, without doubt, will contribute as in other states, a copy of their paper regularly, and thereby avail itself of an opportunity to permanently preserve their files for future reference. Here we will also remark that current pamphlets should not be forgotten. It is a saying worthy of remembering that the "Rubbish of one generation is the treasure of another."

MISDIRECTED EFFORTS ILLUSTRATED.

While touching upon the press we will add a word with reference to traveling correspondents of newspapers East and elsewhere. It is very clear to every intelligent observer who has passed the "tender-foot" period, that these traveling Bohemians annually waste a power of vital energy in the careless misrepresentations with which the publications they represent are freighted. There is a sufficiency of misdirected effort thus ignorantly wasted to work wonders were it intelligently applied. Nor is this characteristic confined to the lesser lights of the press. In illustration: It was only a few years since that a leading New York Magazine, in an article especially dedicated to New Mexico, gave it the geographical location as being south of the Territory of Arizona.

Another specimen, was an Indian agent, who having crossed the plains by stage from the East to Santa Fe, gave form to his regrets for not taking a more comfortable route and coming by steamer to Santa Fe, by way of the gulf of Mexico and the Rio Grande. Even Eli Perkins, writing over his own signature, for the *New York Sun*, in 1877, tells about the facility with which government forts along the Mexican frontier, can be reached by steamboats from Ft. Bliss.

The old Pecos church is by turns written, as an Aztec temple dedicated to Montezuma and the Sun for unknown generations prior to European immigration—or, that it was erected by the Jesuits a century prior to their presence upon the Western continent.

Everybody at all familiar with facts, well knows the Pecos church was erected under Franciscan direction and that the Jesuits never were in New Mexico as an organization prior to their difficulties with the Italian government, only a few years since. Thus we might ex-

tend indefinitely on the productions of these scribblers. It is not too much to say, that the average correspondent shows in some instances an entire want of knowledge, not only with reference to history and geography, but of the people, their customs and the products of the country. The recklessness of the enthusiast in representing the agricultural possibilities of the Territory unsurpassed, is only equalled by the ravings of some unappreciated penny-a-liner, in writing the country down as no better than the sands of Sahara.

PRE HISTORIC REMAINS.

That this country once supported and was the home of a race of people in some respects superior to those found by the first European explorers, is a conclusion amply warranted, when the remains of their structures are considered. Thus, the ruins, including walls of stone laid in uniform courses, found in the cañons of the Mancos Chaco, and de Chelle and elsewhere, possess merits of superior workmanship over those of a later period, and some of which we can attest from personal observation. We have seen and examined work that was mechanically correct in construction, being square in plan, and plumb and level in erection. Cliff houses in the same vicinity are still extant, and from their inaccessibility excite wonder and surprise. Think of a cañon wall 1,200 feet in height, wherein, at a point 200 feet in perpendicular line from the top, and as many feet in a perpendicular line above the last accessible climbing spot, there is to be found in immense pigeon-hole openings, on a horizontal line, four cliff houses, one in each of the pigeon-holes. Evidences of a pre historic people are attested, among other authorities, in the discoveries reported of Col. Greenwood, in charge of an engineering party, surveying the 35th parallel route in 1867-68 wherein he found near the San Francisco mountains, a broken jar, into the hollow of which lava had flown, and the skeleton of a man encased in the same material.

Neither history nor tradition, so far as we have discovered, record any volcanic eruption. Another illustration, possibly of still greater antiquity, was the finding of a human skull in 1877, by W. H. Jackson, of the Hayden Survey, in the Chaco cañon, located about 100 miles due west of Santa Fe. He found the skull in a stratum of broken pottery, flint clippings and small bones, firmly embedded in a coarse gravelly deposit, fourteen feet below the surface, and exposed by an arroyo running very near the ancient pueblo house, now in ruins, and known as the Pueblo del Arroyo. The stratum thus exposed so deep, and down under the foundation of an old ruin, of course suggests many possibilities under archaeological skill. Excavations during the past few months, of old mines near Abo, revealed another human skeleton, found in a room which had been overwhelmed in an eruption of lava. Traces of ruins, as we are credibly informed, are also found on the Navajo reservation and elsewhere, where the site is overgrown with

forest trees. Other ruins, of a more recent date, evidently, are found near most or all of the Pueblo villages of to-day. They were constructed in some instances of adobe, and in others of rude stone-work, laid in adobe mortar. Many of them are known to have been inhabited at the time of the Spanish occupation, by other Pueblo tribes or bands, as is sufficiently verified in the writings of Spanish historians. The population then credited to the country, was largely in excess of the present, and clearly numbered at least double the entire population of New Mexico to-day. Ruins of the character last referred to are, indeed, found in nearly every portion of the Territory. Mining shafts and ruins of smelters, with quantities of slag in the vicinity, but sealed to human occupancy, probably by the Pueblo insurrection of 1680, elsewhere described, and some of them claimed in Indian tradition as having been worked by the natives prior to the Spanish occupation, are now coming to light under the irresistible onward prospecting of our day and time. Ruins of churches and convents are also included in the discoveries.

TRADITIONS—ILLUSTRATIONS.

Traditions must have a place, and of which there are many and varied, and some of which, ante-date the presence of the European. A few in illustration :

The Indian's idea of a future state is a habitation beneath a vast under-ground lake, where melons and peaches and beautiful maidens and horses are in never-ending supply for the good.

The Zuñi Indians gave an account of the settlement on Old Zuñi mesa. (The latter will be understood as an elevated tableland detached from the flanking bluffs, difficult of access and standing alone, like an island, in the valley of the Zuñi river. This mesa is about two miles in length, a mile wide in places, and nine hundred feet high.) Old Pedro Pino, the nestor of this pueblo, relates in stoical solemnity, that the settlement arose in a necessity for placing themselves beyond the reach of the deluge. It will be of interest to all of you, undoubtedly, to learn that the tradition preserves its parallel with that given to us in Sacred Writ, and whereby you will learn something of your ancestors. The Zuñi tradition relates, how the Great Spirit designated them as the favored people,—the only peoples indeed, saved from the effects of that historical flood ; and that all the people of earth now living, are descended from the Indians of Zuñi thus favored.

Another tradition,—a written record of which is to be found in some of the pueblos,—is that Pecos pueblo was the birth place of Montezuma; that after he had grown to man's estate he showed himself possessed of supernatural powers ; that he, at a certain time, assembled a large number of his people and started from New Mexico on a journey south, Montezuma riding on the back of an eagle ; and thus riding in advance, was to his people, as was the star to the wise men

of the East. Wherever the eagle stopped at night there was planted an Indian pueblo. The sign of arriving at the site of the great city and capital of the Aztec nation, was to be the "alighting of the eagle upon a caetus bush and devouring a serpent." This event took place when the eagle arrived at the site of the present city of Mexico, then first made a city and capital. The legend has been made memorable by the action of the republic of Mexico in adopting the alighting of the eagle, as the design of the national seal. The same design is likewise stamped on Mexican coins. The founding of the City of Mexico is dated 1525.

SPANISH EXPLORATIONS.

The coming of the Spanish explorer marks a new era in the history of the country. First, we have the remarkable story of Cabeza de Vaca, from 1528 to 1536; how he journeyed by water and by land, all the way from Florida, and reciting hardships, misery, shipwrecks and death attending the expedition; of the hair-breadth escapes and expedients of himself and three sole surviving companions, while making their trans-continental passage through a vast wilderness, and an unknown land of wild and hostile Indians. From Vaca we also have the account of village Indians among whom he tarried for a time, enjoying their hospitality. From his description of the people, and from the cross and other religious symbols found by subsequent explorers, it is believed he journeyed through what is now known as New Mexico. Then we have an account of his arrival at San Miguel, on the Gulf of California, many thousands of miles overland from whence he started, and his account of the thrilling adventures, and the marvelous country through which he had journeyed for eight eventful years.

Immediately following the latter comes the expedition of Friar ~~Zuñi~~ Míza, accompanied by Estevan, the negro companion of Vaca. The indiscretions of Estevan, at Zuñi, resulted in his death, and precipitated the return of Míza, without practical results.



CORONADO, 1540.

Coronado's memorable expedition followed in 1540, in a mad chase for gold, extending his travels, according to General Simpson's interpretation, from the Gulf of California via Zuñi and Pecos, on to the southern central Nebraska of to-day, far to the northeast. Among the facts learned from this expedition was the provident stores for future emergencies, made by the Pueblo Indians, amounting to two and three years supply. We also learn of their hospitality toward Coronado and his men, and how it was sometimes reciprocated by treachery. This expedition brought with them sheep, and probably dates their introduction into New Mexico. The expedition, after about two years, returned disheartened, without financial success and in disgrace.

ESPEJO'S EXPEDITIONS.

The next expeditions of material importance were those of Espejo, coming by way of the Rio Grande valley, forty years later. The first was prompted in humanity and had specially for its object the rescue of several Franciscan friars, who had ascended the Rio Grande valley, and been deserted by their small escort. Espejo's arrival was too late, however, to make his errand of mercy available. The several priests had all been massacred by the Indians. He then visited the country west as far as Zuñi and Moqui and returned to Mexico. He subsequently made another expedition covering nearly the same ground west, and made careful notes of observations. He returned passing near the Placia mountains, attempted to visit Santa Fe, but was met by forty thousand Indians, as we are told, and driven back. He returned to Zacatecas, from whence he came, by way of the Pecos and Concho rivers. The reports of Espejo were of much value to those who subsequently came to New Mexico.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first immigration to New Mexico that resulted in a permanent settlement, was under Oñate, about 1597. This colony settled in Rio Arriba county, where the Rio Chama forms a junction with the Rio Grande, and now the terminus of the Denver and Rio Grande railroad. This settlement, according to Shea, was named by Oñate "San Gabriel." It is now known as Chamita, or Espanol, the latter being the name given to the station by the railroad company. The following year a settlement was made at Santa Fe. According to some authorities it was then named el Teguayo; being a Spanish adaptation of the word Tegua, the name of the Pueblo nation then quite numerous, and occupying Santa Fe county and vicinity. From this time forward there seems to have been a considerable Spanish population in the Territory: undergoing varying fortunes, however, incident to revolutions and failure of crops. In 1660, Shea says the country was abandoned.

PUEBLO INSURRECTION.

In 1680, on the other hand, the country seems to have been occupied, as we find very full documentary evidence of the Spaniards having been driven out of Santa Fe and the Territory, by the Pueblo Indians. It was then that the churches and convents were burned; specifically, we may name the San Miguel church, in Santa Fe, rebuilt in 1710 and still in use. A stone enclosure, as we are told, was erected in the plaza of Santa Fe, possibly near where the soldiers monument now stands, and into which the church vestments, the holy vessels and all archives and documents belonging to the government and then remaining, were cast and burned; many of the Spanish population including several priests were overtaken and killed. The Indians sought, in fine, to obliterate every trace that might remind them of the Span-

iard. Wives taken in marriage under the rites of the church were cast off. Mining shafts were filled up and smelters destroyed. The Indians thereafter remained masters of the country until 1691, when under reverses a compromise was effected, upon the Spaniards obligating themselves to abandon all right to work the mines. The latter were looked upon by the Pueblos as largely the cause of all their woes and oppressions. The Indian had been forced to become a bearer of burthens. He had been made to carry upon his back from deep shafts, up rude ladders, the ores quarried from the depths. He had been driven from home and family to this humiliation and oppression, while his imperious task masters remained, revelling in debauchery, at the homes of those they had reduced to slavery. After the revolution, the Spaniards were forced to content themselves with occupations incident to cultivating the soil and stock-raising. This compromise lasted unbroken for many years. Much of history for three quarters of a century prior to 1680, is largely dependent upon tradition. It comes considerably mutilated in transmission through the ravages of time and fluctuations of empire; still, when taken in connection with the remains of antiquity and the conclusions of the antiquarian, they all have their place in arriving at the truth of the past.

FOLLOWING THE RESTORATION OF 1694.

The events following the Spanish restoration are to be found largely in the accounts of revolutions, Indian campaigns and depredations, and an occasional famine. The population in 1799, as officially stated, was 23,769 Spaniards, and 10,369 mission Indians. Items historical, from this date forward, accumulate with accelerating progression.

THE FIRST MERCANDISE

was brought to New Mexico from east of the plains in 1804. It was sent from Kaskaskia, Illinois. Captain Zebulon Pike, U. S. A. while making explorations in 1806, unintentionally found himself and command on Mexican domain; and Governor Alencastor's soldiers thus finding him, brought him a prisoner to Santa Fe; and after a few days incarceration in the very building in which we are all assembled this evening, he was sent a prisoner to Chihuahua, where he was released and sent home, minus valuable papers.

THE MEXICAN REPUBLIC.

In 1821 came Mexican independence, and in 1822 came to New Mexico a government under the republic with Francis Xavier Chaves, as political chief. The overland trade with the United States virtually dates from the same year. Events familiar to many of you now transpire rapidly. A long line of names prominent in the history of the republic follow; some of them illustrious in the history of the Territory. Thus, the names of Chaves, Otero, Baca, Romero, Martinez, Abren, Luna, Armijo, Sanchez, Valdez, Ortiz and others, are each and all in-

delibly identified. November 29th, 1835, becomes memorable from being the date of publication of the first newspaper west of St. Louis. It was named "El Crepusculo," (The Dawn.) 1837 brings us to the thrilling scenes of the revolution, that resulted in the assassination of Governor Peraz. 1842, dates the Texas invasion, and August 18th, 1846

THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION

of New Mexico, by General Stephen W. Kearney. The history of the Territory following, in addition to names already given, will include many persons gathered to their fathers, prominent among whom will be found those of Gregg, Doniphon, Bent, Vigil, Watrous, St. Vrain, Pino, Carson, Beaubien, S. J. Spiegelberg, Dold, Lane, Maxwell, Lamy, Gorman, Joseph, Haming, Gallegos, Perea, Keithley, Benedict, Bull, Porter, Ellison, Giddings and Cleaver. Then comes material for a large volume on the honorable part New Mexico took in the war of the rebellion. The development of

THE OVERLAND TRADE

from the capacity of a single annual train of prairie schooners in 1825, to that of four railroads now present and centered upon the valley of the Rio Grande, from as many different points, would require other considerable volumes. All this, and more, will be found abounding in a wierd, deep and solemnly thrilling interest, all historical and much of it rivalling in absorbing interest the best inventions of fiction. Ours is the duty to make the collection—to gather the material for the future historian. It is certainly worth the effort. Shall the accumulations of the society of a few years hence, prove that the work now begun in this organization, has been well and effectually followed up? Shall the torch-light of the past be handed on, that the future may profit by and excel? The answer rests with the people of New Mexico.

Certificate of Incorporation of the Historical Society of New Mexico.

We, the undersigned, all of whom are citizens of the United States and residents of New Mexico, organize a corporation under and in pursuance of provisions of chapter I of the laws of 1880, of New Mexico, and set forth in this certificate of incorporation as follows:

The name of such corporation shall be The Historical Society of New Mexico. Its objects shall be the collection and preservation of historical articles, documents, memoirs, antiquities and curiosities, geological specimens, objects of natural history and geographical maps, and information. Its location shall be generally in the Territory of New Mexico, and its principal place of business at Santa Fe.

The term of its existence shall be perpetual.

In witness whereof we have made and signed this certificate the 27th day of December, 1880.

W. G. RITCH,
L. BRADFORD PRINCE,
DAVID J. MILLER,
WILLIAM M. BERGER,
LEHMAN SPIEGELBERG.

Duly acknowledged and filed and recorded in the office of the Secretary of the Territory.

CONSTITUTION.

PREAMBLE.

We, whose names are hereto annexed, residents of the Territory of New Mexico, fully impressed with the vast field for historical research which surrounds us, determined to devote our best energies to the elucidation of the history of this country, hitherto unwritten; and, anxious to co-operate in combined effort for this object, do now form an association, and ordain for our government the following.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This Society shall be called the HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT.

The object of this Society shall be the collection and preservation, under its own care and direction, of all historical facts, manuscripts, documents, records, and memoirs, relating to the history of this Territory; Indian antiquities and curiosities; geological and mineralogical specimens; geographical maps and information; and objects of Natural History.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS.

SEC. 1. Its officers shall be a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and a Curator, (who shall be ex officio Librarian).

SEC. 2. The above officers shall hold their respective positions for one year, (except the Corresponding Secretary, who shall hold office during the pleasure of the Society). The first election shall be held on the second Monday in January, 1881, immediately after the adoption of the constitution, and be by ballot, requiring a vote of two-thirds of the members present. All subsequent elections shall be held on the last Monday of December of each year, in the mode and manner above prescribed.

SEC. 3. The President shall preside, preserve order, regulate the proceedings of the Society, and state and put all questions to vote.

SEC. 4. The Vice-President shall exercise all duties pertaining to the office of President, in the absence of the latter.

SEC. 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall give notice to all newly elected members of their election; and he shall manage all matters relating to the interests of the Society requiring correspondence; he shall read to the Society all communications and replies which he may have made and received during the preceding recess, and then deliver them to the Recording Secretary; he shall perform such other duties, pertaining to his office, as the President or Society may direct; and shall preside during the absence of the President and Vice President.

SEC. 6. The Recording Secretary shall keep a fair record of all the proceedings of the Society; he shall keep a correct list of all the members, and furnish the Corresponding Secretary with the names and places of residence of all newly elected members, and the time of their election; he shall keep in his possession all communications, records and other papers belonging to the Society, and to which all members shall have access; he shall receive all moneys due to the Society and hand the same over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor.

The Treasurer shall keep safely all funds which may come into his hands, and pay them out only upon draft made by the President and countersigned by the Recording Secretary; he shall report quarterly of the condition of the Treasury.

SEC. 7. The Curator shall take charge of, and classify, all Indian and other antiquities and curiosities; geological and mineralogical specimens; geographical maps, and objects of Natural History.

SEC. 8. In the absence of the presiding officers above designated, the Society may elect a President pro tem.; and in the absence of other officers, the presiding officer may appoint pro tem.

ARTICLE IV.

MEETINGS.

The regular meeting of the Society shall be held on the third Monday of each month, and special meetings may be called at any time by the President, upon the application of five members, or by resolution of any previous meeting.

ARTICLE V.

MEMBERSHIP.

SEC. 1. Application for membership must be made to the Society, at one of its regular meetings, in writing, and recommended by two members; which application shall lie upon the table until the next regular meeting thereafter, when a ballot shall be had. A vote of two-thirds of the members present shall be necessary to an election.

SEC. 2. Persons not residents of the Territory of New Mexico may be proposed as honorary members of the Society, by a member, and may be elected at any regular meeting, provided three-fourths of the members present concur therein.

SEC. 3. Corresponding members may be elected, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting.

SEC. 4. All persons who shall subscribe to this constitution, or be elected members of the Society in accordance with its provisions, shall pay to the Treasurer five dollars, initiation fee.

SEC. 5. All persons who have been elected members, who shall not sign the constitution and by-laws within three months from the date of their election, such election shall be void.

ARTICLE VI.

SPECIFIC OBJECTS.

SECTION 1. To render effective the action of the Society, it shall be divided into permanent Sections; each Section to be composed of three members, to be chosen by ballot, and each Section to choose its own chairman. These Sections shall be designated as follows, viz.:

1. The Section on History.
2. The Section on Geography.
3. The Section on the Indian Races.
4. The Section on Geology and Mineralogy.
5. The Section on Antiquities and Collections.
6. The Section on Natural History.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of each Section above designated to take cognizance of all details connected with that particular department; keep a record of its sessions and proceedings, and submit its papers and reports, when completed, to the Society for its action, and for preservation among its archives.

Sec. 3. Vacancies may be filled by the President, and the permanent officers shall not be precluded, by virtue of office, from election to any Section.

SEC. 4. All documents, maps, manuscripts, specimens, antiquities, curiosities, etc., collected by the Sections, shall be deposited, as heretofore directed, with the Recording Secretary or Curator, for the use of the Society.

ARTICLE VII.

SEAL AND CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP.

The Society may provide a suitable seal and device, and issue certificates of membership, under such regulations as may be deemed necessary.

ARTICLE VIII.

BY-LAWS.

The Society may make such by-laws as may be deemed necessary, in accordance with the objects and powers of the constitution.

ARTICLE IX.

Seven members of the Society will be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting, but a less number may adjourn to the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE X.

No amendments shall be made to this constitution unless submitted in writing at a regular meeting of the Society, and concurred in at the next regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

The annual meetings of this Society shall be held on the last Monday in December of each year, the anniversary of its organization. The election of officers for the next ensuing year shall then be made. Nominations for officers shall be made at the monthly meeting next preceding the annual meeting, and shall be recorded in the minutes.

ARTICLE II.

All committees shall be appointed by the President, unless otherwise ordered by resolution.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. The Recording Secretary shall keep, in addition to the records of the meeting, a book containing the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society, which shall be subscribed by the members thereof on the evening of their admission, with their place of residence and date of admission; he shall also enter in said book all amendments made to the Constitution and By-Laws; he shall also keep a Cash-book, in which he shall enter all moneys received by him, from whatever source, and all payments made on account of the Society; he shall also keep a check or warrant book, from which he shall fill up all checks for the signature of the President and attest the same, and such other books as the Society or the President may deem necessary.

SEC. 2. The Treasurer shall not pay out any money unless on a warrant drawn by the President, under the seal of the Society, and countersigned by the Recording Secretary; and, at the expiration of his term, and upon a final settlement of his accounts by the Finance Committee, he shall turn over any balance of money in his hands to his successor in office, taking his receipt therefor.

ARTICLE IV.

On the evening of his installation into office, the President shall appoint two committees, consisting of three members each, to be styled the "Finance Committee" and the "Executive Committee," who shall serve for one year: Provided, that all the committees required to be appointed under these By-Laws for the first term shall be appointed immediately after their adoption.

ARTICLE V.

It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to inspect the books of the Secretaries and the Treasurer, examine and audit all accounts for purchases and expenditures made by the Secretaries, or Executive Committee, and report the same to the Recording Secretary for payment; they shall keep a book in which shall be entered the number of each account audited, in whose favor,

and the amount thereof; at the expiration of their term, they shall render a report of the financial condition of the Society, stating the amount received and expended, as well as the amount of funds in the hands of the Treasurer at the expiration of his term of office.

ARTICLE VI.

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to procure a suitable room or rooms for the use of the Society; procure all furniture and other articles which may be necessary for the preservation of the archives and cabinets of specimens belonging to the Society, or tending to its comfort and accommodation; they shall superintend the publication of all documents, reports, etc., ordered to be printed, and shall have the supervision and management of all matters having reference to the internal arrangements and well-being of the Society; they shall present all bills for purchase and expenditures made by them to the Finance Committee, to be audited and settled.

SEC. 2. An appeal may be taken from the decision of the Finance Committee by the Executive Committee, whenever necessary, to the Society, in session, at any regular monthly meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

The Recording Secretary shall procure printed, engraved, or illuminated, diplomas or certificates of membership, which he shall fill up with the name of each member and the date of his admission, stating the class of his membership, whether a member, a corresponding member, or an honorary member; and after causing it to be signed by the President, and affixing the seal aforesaid, duly attested, with his signature, he shall deliver the same to the Corresponding Secretary, for transmission.

ARTICLE VIII.

Each member shall pay into the Treasury, semi-annually, the sum of two dollars, as dues, which may be increased or diminished only upon a motion in writing made at a regular meeting, and be adopted by a vote of two thirds of the members present.

ARTICLE IX.

Any member failing to pay his dues for six months, upon being notified by the Secretary, stating the amount due, shall forfeit his membership, unless a sufficient excuse be given and accepted by the Society.

ARTICLE X.

Any member may withdraw from the Society upon presenting a written resignation, accompanied by the Treasurer's receipt for all indebtedness on his part to the Society.

ARTICLE XI.

SECTION 1. The following shall be the order of business after the meeting is called to order, viz.:

1. Reading the minutes of the last stated and intervening meetings.
2. Application of candidates for membership.
3. Election and admission of new members.
4. Unfinished business.
5. Reports of Committees and action thereon.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Resolutions.
8. Communications received, read, and disposed of.
9. Reports from Sections.
10. Reading of papers by members present, and addresses on subjects embraced within the objects of the Society.

SEC. 2. The above order of business may be dispensed with by a vote of the Society.

ARTICLE XII.

No other matter shall be discussed at any special meeting except that for which it has been called, and no appropriation of money shall be made except at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE XIII.

All proceedings at the meetings of this Society shall be governed by the most approved parliamentary rules; all motions shall be reduced to writing when required by the President, and an appeal may always be had to the Society from the decision of the chair.

ARTICLE XIV.

Upon the death of a member of this Society, in good standing, if a resident of the place where the meetings of the Society are held, his funeral shall be attended by the Society in a body, and the members thereof shall wear the customary badge of mourning for thirty days.

ARTICLE XV.

The hour of meeting of this Society shall be from October 1st to April 30th, at 7 o'clock p. m., and from May 1st to September 30th, at 8 o'clock p. m.

ARTICLE XVI.

All donations made to the Society shall be reported and entered upon the minutes.

ARTICLE XVII.

No additions or amendments shall be made to these By-Laws unless submitted in writing at a regular meeting of the Society, and concurred in at the next regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

